



"Garbaciak, Steve"  
<Steve.Garbaciak@arcadis-us.com>

03/13/2007 02:15 PM

To

Subject Results of Indiana bat tree survey

Sam, Paul, Lisa and Jack:

Attached please find Dr. Kurta's summary of his work at Plainwell marking the potential Indiana bat habitat trees. Included with the letter is a figure that was marked up in the field to show the approximate location of the trees. The twelve trees described in the letter and marked in the field by Dr. Kurta will be felled before April 1, 2007, allowing us to proceed with the implementation of the Plainwell TCRA, under the conditions described in Craig Czarnecki's letter to Sam Borries of January 10, 2007, unless you respond otherwise.

Thanks.

**Stephen Garbaciak Jr.**  
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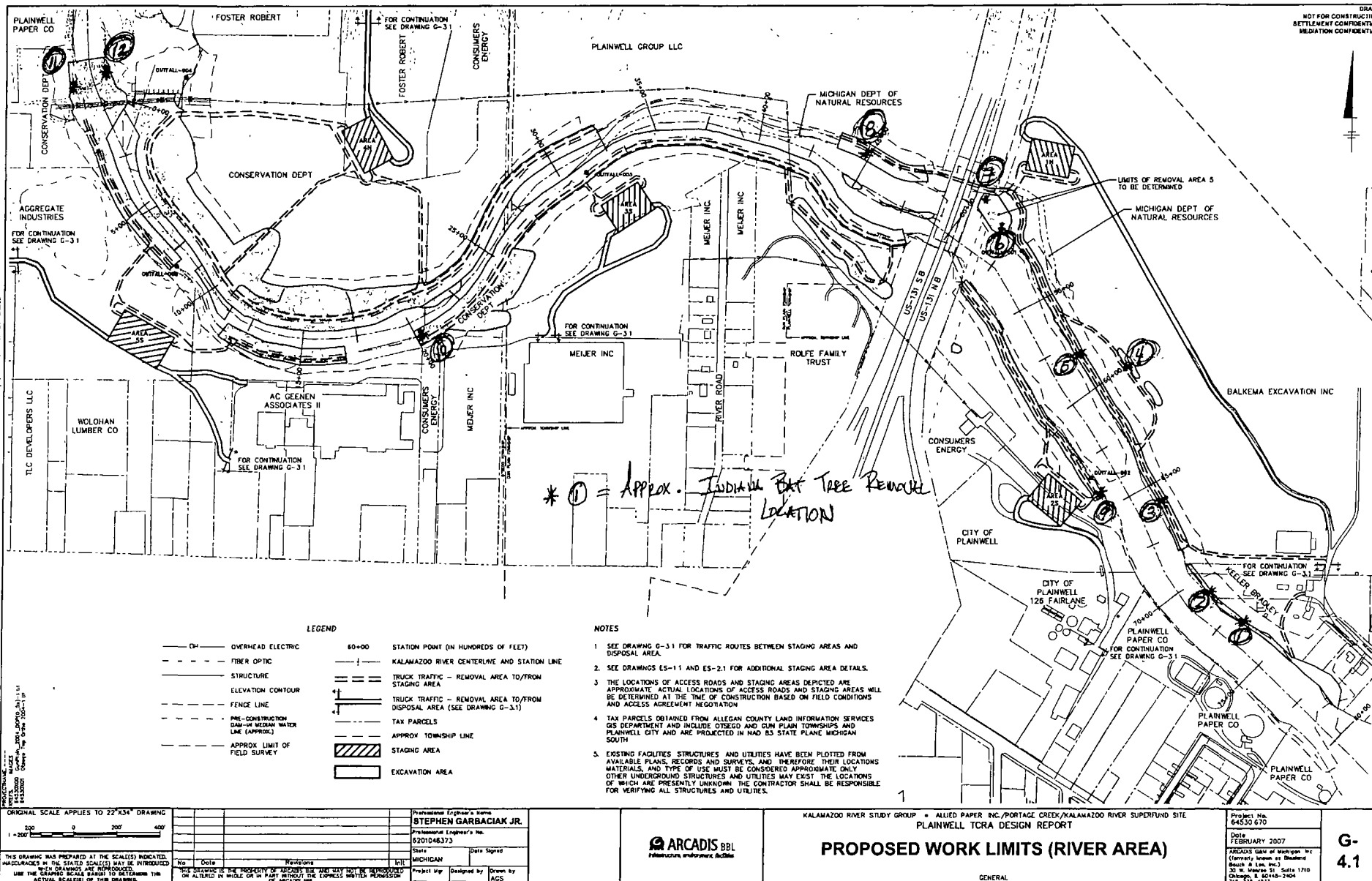


Kurta letter 03-07-07 pdf

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# EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

7 March 2007

Mr. Steve Garbaciak  
ARCADIS BBL  
30 W. Monroe Drive  
Chicago, IL 60603

Dear Mr. Garbaciak,

On the afternoon and evening of 6 March 2007, I visited the area of the former Plainwell impoundment, along the Kalamazoo River, near Plainwell, Michigan, where the U.S. EPA proposes to remove contaminated soils. During this visit, I was accompanied by Mr. E. J. Suardini, who led me to potential removal areas and sites that would be used as staging areas. The purpose of my visit was to identify potential roost trees of the Indiana bat so that they could be removed before 1 April, as indicated in the letter from Mr. Craig Czarnecki, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, that was sent to Mr. Sam Borries of the EPA and dated 10 January 2007.

During my visit, I identified only 12 potential roost trees (including some that were multi-trunked), and these were marked with orange paint and/or flagging tape. Most (9) potential roosts were located at various sites east of Highway US-131, in the area that was farthest from the old dam. Sites closer to the old dam, although larger in area, were generally unsuitable for Indiana bats. My understanding is that this portion of the current floodplain was under the old impoundment so that most trees are less than 30 years old. The small size and overall health of these trees make them unsuitable for roosting, but in addition, species composition was dominated by hawthorn (*Crataegus*). The long, stout thorns that appear on the branches and trunk of these trees would be a danger to flying bats, and I am not aware of Indiana bats ever using this type of tree. I concur that removing the 12 potential roosts is not likely to have an adverse effect on Indiana bats.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Allen Kurta".

Dr. Allen Kurta  
Biological Consultant